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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Commission on Trade in Goods and Services,
and Commodities
Expert Meeting on Trade in the Agricultural Sector
Geneva, 26-28 April 1999
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

I. Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

3. Analysis of the problems and prospects for expanding the agricultural exports of developing countries, taking into account the opportunities and challenges arising from the implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture

4. Issues at stake from the development perspective in the upcoming agricultural negotiations

5. Adoption of the outcome of the Meeting

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II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

Item 1: Election of officers

1. It is recommended that the Expert Meeting elect a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson-cum-Rapporteur.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

2. The provisional agenda for the Expert Meeting on Trade in the Agricultural Sector is reproduced in section I above. The provisional schedule of meetings for the three days is attached to this document.

3. As decided by the Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities, at its third session (28 September - 2 October 1998), this meeting of experts is convened to examine trade in the agricultural sector, with a view to expanding the agricultural exports of developing countries, and to assisting them in better understanding the issues at stake in the upcoming agricultural negotiations. In line with the mandate, the meeting will have two substantive segments. The first will be devoted to an analysis of the problems and prospects for expanding the agricultural exports of developing countries, taking into account the opportunities and challenges arising from the implementation the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture. The second will focus on the development dimension of the issues at stake in the upcoming agricultural negotiations. It is suggested that the Meeting be organized in a manner that will permit the discussion to be supported by concrete examples from developing countries. Accordingly, it is recommended that presentations by country experts, relevant international organizations and representatives of civil society (e.g. NGOs) include relevant developing country experiences relating to the issues being addressed (see below, *Inputs from Experts*).

Item 3: Analysis of the problems and prospects for expanding the agricultural exports of developing countries, taking into account the opportunities and challenges arising from the implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture

4. Under this item, the Meeting will identify and assess the major factors affecting the agricultural trade of developing countries, taking into account the opportunities and challenges arising from the implementation of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture. The discussion will take into account the diverse agricultural situations of developing countries and the broad range of their concerns, including those of countries acceding to the WTO.

Item 4: Issues at stake from the development perspective in the upcoming agricultural negotiations

5. Against the background of the deliberations under item 3, the Meeting will examine, under this item, the issues at stake in the upcoming negotiations, their implications for developing countries and what, from the development perspective, could be elements of a positive agenda for developing countries.

Documentation

TD/B/COM.1/EM.8/2	Examining trade in the agricultural sector, with a view to expanding the agricultural exports of the developing countries, and to assisting them in better understanding the issues at stake in the upcoming agricultural negotiations

Item 5: Adoption of the outcome of the Meeting

6. The Expert Meeting will adopt its recommendations/findings/conclusions at the end of the Meeting. The final report will be compiled under the authority of the Chairperson after the conclusion of the Meeting.

Inputs from Experts

Member States, or experts nominated by them, are encouraged to submit brief papers in advance of the meeting to the UNCTAD secretariat on specific country experiences relating to the subject matter being addressed by the Meeting. Papers could cover country-specific: (a) problems and concerns relating to agricultural production and trade; (b) experiences relating to the implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture, including examples of specific problems and difficulties encountered, as well as issues of concern to countries acceding to WTO; and (c) interests and concerns relating to the upcoming multilateral negotiations on agriculture. Country papers will be made available to other participants at the meeting in the form and language in which they are received. Member countries are requested to kindly submit the papers by 31 March 1999 to:

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SCHEDULE OF THE MEETING

Day 1 (26 April 1999)	Day 2 (27 April 1999)	Day 3 (28 April 1999)
(10 a.m. - 1 p.m.) **Plenary** Opening statement Item 1: Election of officers Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and the organization of the meeting **Informals** Item 3: Analysis of the problems and prospects for expanding the agricultural exports of developing countries, taking into account the opportunities and challenges arising from the implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture	*(10 a.m. - 1 p.m.)* **Informals (continued)** Item 3: (continued) Item 4: Issues at stake from the development perspective in the upcoming agricultural negotiations	*(10 a.m. - 1 p.m.)* **Informals (continued)** Item 4: (continued)
(3 p.m. - 6 p.m.) **Informals (continued)** Item 3: (continued)	*(3 p.m. - 6 p.m.)* **Informals (continued)** Item 4: (continued)	*(3 p.m. - 6 p.m.)* **Plenary** (closing) Adoption of outcome